

**To:** Parody Products LLC ([Steve@Parodyproducts.net](mailto:Steve@Parodyproducts.net))  
**Subject:** U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 85731440 - PARODY PRODUCTS - N/A  
**Sent:** 1/20/2013 3:19:01 PM  
**Sent As:** ECOM101@USPTO.GOV

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[Attachment - 2](#)  
[Attachment - 3](#)  
[Attachment - 4](#)  
[Attachment - 5](#)  
[Attachment - 6](#)  
[Attachment - 7](#)  
[Attachment - 8](#)  
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[Attachment - 52](#)  
[Attachment - 53](#)  
[Attachment - 54](#)  
[Attachment - 55](#)  
[Attachment - 56](#)

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)  
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 85731440

MARK: PARODY PRODUCTS

**\*85731440\***

**CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:**

PARODY PRODUCTS LLC  
PARODY PRODUCTS LLC  
1700 7TH AVE STE 116 # 373  
SEATTLE, WA 98101-1323

**CLICK HERE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:**  
[http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response\\_forms.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp)

**APPLICANT:** Parody Products LLC

**CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET NO :**

N/A

**CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

Steve@Parodyproducts.net

**OFFICE ACTION**

**STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER**

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW.

**ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 1/20/2013**

**TEAS PLUS APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY OR SUBMIT FEE:** Applicants who filed their application online using the reduced-fee TEAS Plus application must continue to submit certain documents online using TEAS, including responses to Office actions. See 37 C.F.R. §2.23(a)(1). For a complete list of these documents, see TMEP §819.02(b). In addition, such applicants must accept correspondence from the Office via e-mail throughout the examination process and must maintain a valid e-mail address. 37 C.F.R. §2.23(a)(2); TMEP §§819, 819.02(a). TEAS Plus applicants who do not meet these requirements must submit an additional fee of \$50 per international class of goods and/or services. 37 C.F.R. §2.6(a)(1)(iv); TMEP §819.04. In appropriate situations and where all issues can be resolved by amendment, responding by telephone to authorize an examiner's amendment will not incur this additional fee.

**FINAL ACTION**

This letter responds to the applicant's communication filed on December 28, 2012.

**INTRODUCTION**

The applicant has (1) provided a substitute specimen; and (2) failed to provide a disclaimer of the term "PRODUCTS". Neither is acceptable.

For the reasons set forth below, the stated requirements are maintained and made **FINAL**.

### **SPECIMEN REQUIRED**

The specimen is not acceptable because it does not show the applied-for mark in use in commerce. An application based on Trademark Act Section 1(a) must include a specimen showing the applied-for mark in use in commerce for each class of services. Trademark Act Sections 1 and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051, 1127; 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a).

The specimen consists of a logo that is presumably used as a banner atop the applicant's website. However, it is not acceptable as evidence of actual service mark use because it does not evidence use on or in connection with the services. The specimen fails to show a nexus between the mark and the identified services. Thus, it fails to show proper use of the applied-for mark in the sale or advertising of the services.

Therefore, applicant must submit the following:

- (1) A substitute specimen showing the mark in use in commerce for each class of services specified in the application; and
- (2) The following statement, verified with an affidavit or signed declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20: “**The substitute specimen was in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application.**” 37 C.F.R. §2.59(a); TMEP §904.05; see 37 C.F.R. §2.193(e)(1). If submitting a substitute specimen requires an amendment to the dates of use, applicant must also verify the amended dates. 37 C.F.R. §2.71(c); TMEP §904.05.

Examples of specimens for services are signs, photographs, brochures, website printouts or advertisements that show the mark used in the actual sale or advertising of the services. See TMEP §§1301.04 *et seq.*

If applicant cannot satisfy the above requirements, applicant may amend the application from a use in commerce basis under Section 1(a) to an intent to use basis under Section 1(b), for which no specimen is required. See TMEP §806.03(c). However, if applicant amends the basis to Section 1(b), registration will not be granted until applicant later amends the application back to use in commerce by filing an acceptable allegation of use with a proper specimen. See 15 U.S.C. §1051(c), (d); 37 C.F.R. §§2.76, 2.88; TMEP §1103.

To amend to Section 1(b), applicant must submit the following statement, verified with an affidavit or signed declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20: “**Applicant has had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the services listed in the application as of the filing date of the application.**” 37 C.F.R. §2.34(a)(2); TMEP §806.01(b); see 15 U.S.C. §1051(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.35(b)(1), 2.193(e)(1).

Pending receipt of a proper response, registration is refused because the specimen does not show the applied-for mark in use in commerce as a service mark. Trademark Act Sections 1 and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051, 1127; 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a).

### **DISCLAIMER REQUIRED**

The applicant must still insert a disclaimer of “PRODUCTS” in the application because the term(s) is/are merely descriptive of the goods and/or services. Trademark Act Section 6, 15 U.S.C. Section 1056; TMEP sections 1213 and 1213.09(a)(i).

The term “PRODUCT” is defined as “something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process.” *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language* ©2009 Yahoo! Inc. (copy attached to Office Action No. 1).

The term “PRODUCTS” merely describes a feature of the applicant's services, as identified in the specimen wherein it states “Parody Products LLC produces *products*....Parody Product's mission is to create *products* that are fun and will bring joy and fun to your world for years to come!”

Trademark Act Section 6(a), 15 U.S.C. Section 1056(a), states that the Commissioner may require the applicant to disclaim an unregistrable component of a mark. Trademark Act Section 2(e), 15 U.S.C. Section 1052(e), bars the registration of a mark which is merely descriptive or deceptively misdescriptive, or primarily geographically descriptive of the goods. Therefore, the Commissioner may require the disclaimer of a portion of a mark which, when used in connection with the goods or services, is merely descriptive or deceptively misdescriptive, or primarily geographically descriptive. If an applicant does not comply with a disclaimer requirement, the examining attorney may refuse registration of the entire mark. TMEP section 1213.01(b).

Third-party registrations featuring services the same as or similar to applicant's services are probative evidence on the issue of descriptiveness where the relevant word or term is disclaimed, registered under Trademark Act Section 2(f) based on acquired distinctiveness, or registered on the Supplemental Register. See *Inst. Nat'l des Appellations D'Origine v. Vintners Int'l Co.*, 958 F.2d 1574, 1581-82, 22 USPQ2d 1190, 1196 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Box Solutions Corp.*, 79 USPQ2d 1953, 1955 (TTAB 2006); *In re Finisar Corp.*, 78 USPQ2d 1618, 1621 (TTAB 2006). To this end, the Examining Attorney has attached abstracts showing the Trademark Office's treatment of the term “PRODUCTS”.

A disclaimer does **not** remove the disclaimed matter from the mark. It is simply a statement that the applicant does not claim **exclusive** rights in the disclaimed wording or design apart from the mark as shown in the drawing.

The following cases explain the disclaimer requirement more fully: *In re Kraft, Inc.*, 218 USPQ 571 (TTAB 1983); *In re EBS Data Processing, Inc.*, 212 USPQ 964 (TTAB 1981); *In re National Presto Industries, Inc.*, 197 USPQ 188 (TTAB 1977); *In re Pendleton Tool Industries, Inc.*, 157 USPQ 114 (TTAB 1968).

The computerized printing format for the *Trademark Official Gazette* requires a standard form for a disclaimer. TMEP section 1213.09(a)(i). A properly worded disclaimer should read as follows:

No claim is made to the exclusive right to use "PRODUCTS" apart from the mark as shown.

See *In re Owatonna Tool Co.*, 231 USPQ 493 (Comm'r Pats. 1983).

Two major reasons for not protecting descriptive marks are (1) to prevent the owner of a descriptive mark from inhibiting competition in the marketplace and (2) to avoid the possibility of costly infringement suits brought by the trademark or service mark owner. *In re Abcor Dev. Corp.*, 588 F.2d 811, 813, 200 USPQ 215, 217 (C.C.P.A. 1978); TMEP §1209. Businesses and competitors should be free to use descriptive language when describing their own goods and/or services to the public in advertising and marketing materials. See *In re Styleclick.com Inc.*, 58 USPQ2d 1523, 1527 (TTAB 2001).

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, the requirements as stated above are maintained and made **FINAL**.

### **APPLICANT'S OPTIONS**

Applicant must respond within six months of the date of issuance of this final Office action or the application will be abandoned. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §2.65(a). Applicant may respond by providing one or both of the following:

- (1) A response that fully satisfies all outstanding requirements;
- (2) An appeal to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, with the appeal fee of \$100 per class.

37 C.F.R. §2.64(a); TMEP §714.04; see 37 C.F.R. §2.6(a)(18); TBMP ch. 1200.

In certain rare circumstances, an applicant may respond by filing a petition to the Director pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §2.63(b)(2) to review procedural issues. 37 C.F.R. §2.64(a); TMEP §714.04; see 37 C.F.R. §2.146(b); TBMP §1201.05; TMEP §1704 (explaining petitionable matters). The petition fee is \$100. 37 C.F.R. §2.6(a)(15).

### **TRADEMARK ATTORNEY SUGGESTED**

Because of the legal technicalities and strict deadlines involved in the USPTO application process, applicant may wish to hire a private attorney specializing in trademark matters to represent applicant in this process and provide legal advice. Although the undersigned trademark examining attorney is permitted to help an applicant understand the contents of an Office action as well as the application process in general, no USPTO attorney or staff is permitted to give an applicant legal advice or statements about an applicant's legal rights. TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

For attorney referral information, applicant may consult the American Bar Association's Consumers' Guide to Legal Help at <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm>, an attorney referral service of a state or local bar association, or a local telephone directory. The USPTO may not assist an applicant in the selection of a private attorney. 37 C.F.R. §2.11.

If applicant has questions regarding this Office action, please telephone or e-mail the assigned trademark examining attorney. All relevant e-mail communications will be placed in the official application record; however, an e-mail communication will not be accepted as a response to this Office action and will not extend the deadline for filing a proper response. See 37 C.F.R. §2.191; TMEP §§304.01-.02, 709.04-.05. Further, although the trademark examining attorney may provide additional explanation pertaining to the refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) in this Office action, the trademark examining attorney may not provide legal advice or statements about applicant's rights. See TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

/Alec Powers/  
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Trademark Law Office 101  
Direct: 571-272-9309  
Alexander.Powers@uspto.gov

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issue/ mailing date before using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail [TEAS@uspto.gov](mailto:TEAS@uspto.gov). For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

**All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.**

**WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE:** It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

**PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION:** To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at [TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov](mailto:TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov) or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

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